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AUTHOR Osborn, Kevin
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ABSTRACT

Bias-related violence and harassment are increasing throughout the world. This book for children explores the causes and incidence of bias and also discusses what people are doing to defeat hatred and promote respect for the ways in which people differ. A bias incident or hate crime is any crime committed against a person because of his or her race, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, or gender. Criminal acts because of bias or prejudice are defined as hatred or negative attitudes toward a group of people who share a common characteristic. Hate crimes victimize the entire community and are really acts of terrorism. Speaking out and fighting back against bias incidents are discussed. The Los Angeles riots after the Rodney King verdict are described as an example of the way violence can escalate. The message for children is that differences among people must be recognized and respected to find common interests that are the basis of lasting community. (Contains 5 references.) (SLD)

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